



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764

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Contact: Maleigh Jackson
517-373-2420

Sen. Garcia's legislation creating the Anhydrous Ammonia Security Act heads to the governor for approval

Bill will help prevent theft of fertilizer used to create methamphetamine

LANSING—Anhydrous ammonia, a common fertilizer and a key ingredient in making the street drug methamphetamine, will soon be protected by a bill sponsored by Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell.

Senate Bill 877 passed the Senate today and is headed to the governor for her signature. The Anhydrous Ammonia Security Act will make it harder for individuals to steal anhydrous ammonia, protecting both farmers and individuals who should not have access to the dangerous gas.

Instrumental to the agriculture community, anhydrous ammonia is a low-cost, effective nitrogen-based fertilizer that provides nutrients to 600,000 acres of Michigan crops each year. But improper contact or inhalation can cause serious injury, including chemical burns to the body and lungs.

SB 877 would create safety and security practices for storing the substance, which would reduce the possibility of the chemical being stolen from its storage tanks or from being handled improperly.

Under the legislation, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture will establish standards for safe anhydrous ammonia storage. These standards include:

- Anhydrous ammonia must be stored in a tank that is properly equipped with a functioning tank or valve lock.
- Anhydrous ammonia must contain a dye when it is stored, making the gas visible in the air and when it touches the skin.

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